



**Integrated Plant Protection Center**

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Western Region Functional Agro- Biodiversity (FAB) Work Group  
Oregon State University  
2036 Cordley Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Hello,

The Western Region Functional Agro-Biodiversity Work Group (the FAB Work Group), supports scientists from the western USA, specialists in agricultural biodiversity from industry and non-profits and farmers to meet on a regular basis to develop ecological practices that can be adopted within agriculture in our region. Major focus areas of this group are pollination and biological pest suppression by predators, parasites and pathogens. As a part of its USDA-sponsored program, the FAB Work Group conducts annual short courses, and this year, we are organizing a tour of a leading farm in the Columbia Basin where resource conservation and production practices are successfully combined.

The tour/short course, ***2nd Annual Biodiversity Working for Farmers***, is intended to provide useful information and opportunities for discussion for decision makers, political representatives, regulators, the food industry and area farmers. We would like to invite you to be a participant in this tour/short course on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 – 4:00 PM and tour an organic grain and vegetable farm in Connell, Washington, with local experts and members of the FAB workgroup. At the Lenwood Farms tour, fifth generation farmer, Brad Bailie will lead us through his 600 acre farm highlighting key biodiversity enhancement measures and current on-farm research projects, soil building techniques, and alternative crop production practices. In conjunction with the short course we invite you to a mid-day, on-farm lunch.

The purpose of the tour/short course is to provide a direct and compelling experience of the progressive biodiversity enhancement practices that are driving sustainable agriculture forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to provide access to some of the scientists, farmers and other specialists who are helping us understand the role and importance of on-farm biodiversity for the quality and yield of agricultural crops. The insights gained on this tour should be of direct relevance to discussions about agricultural policies that encourage further elaboration of these practices. It should also identify some of the constraints that may limit the potential for the full benefits of these practices to be realized.

The stars of the tour, in addition to the quality agricultural products this farm produces, will also inevitably be the organisms themselves, including plants, pollinators, insect predators and parasites and vertebrate predators that contribute to agriculture in such important ways. The experts present will take great pleasure in describing these organisms and the role that they play, and demonstrating them as they are encountered during the day. We strongly encourage you to bring notebooks and cameras to make a record of the day's events.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this unique, informative event. An itinerary is enclosed. Also, please circulate this invitation to others you feel might find this short course beneficial. A list of our sponsors is provided at the end of this document.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Ellen, *on behalf the FAB Work Group*

## Registration Information

To register for the **Biodiversity Working for Farmers** short course/tour and the On-Farm lunch please email Gwendolyn Ellen at [gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu) or call at 541-737-6272.

The short course/tour is free. We will meet at Lenwood Farms office in Connell, Washington. To get to the farm, driving on state highway 395 four miles north of Connell (mile marker 61) turn onto Muse Road (west). At Hatton Road turn left (south) for one mile to Cohan Road. Meet at farm office at intersection of Hatton Road and Cohan Road.. Please note that most goggle type maps do not provide accurate directions to this farm. Lunch, snacks and water will be provided. Please dress appropriately for outdoor walking and lots of sun. Carrying your own water is advised.

## Draft Tour Agenda

10:00 -1:00 Lenwood Farms Tour The tour will be approximately 3 hours complete with hands-on exercises, a first hand look at beneficial insects, native pollinators and the farm habitat the farm habitats that support them. We will be highlighting ecological services provided by on-farm beneficial organisms. Brad Bailie, owner and manager of Lenwood Farms, will lead the tour on the farm describing production, crops, habitat development practices and marketing practices throughout the tour. We will spend approximately 30 minutes at each station.

Station One: Dr. Terry Miller, Aggrobiotic Ecosystem Services and Consulting; habitat development, beneficial insect research (primarily parasitoids), and an industry consultant (invited); habitat and food safety issues and Lynn Tomkins, Blue Mountain Wildlife; predator birds and nesting boxes

Station Two: Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation; habitat and native pollinators, Paul Jepson, Integrated Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University; beneficial insect predators and parasites and farmscaping

Station Three: Hands-on beneficial insect and habitat field exercise Gwendolyn Ellen, Farmscaping for Beneficials Program, Oregon State University, facilitator

Station Four: Roger Bailie, Lenwood Farms; farming and natural history of the area, Rancher, Wade Troutman, conservation plantings for the farm and Barbara Robertson, The Dalles Discovery Center native plants for on-farm habitat

1:00-2:00 Locally catered lunch

2:00 - 3:15 Panel Discussion.

The panel will include all the farmer presenters, an industry representative, a soil and water conservation district representative, a functional agricultural biodiversity advocate and a politician or political aid. The panel facilitator, Dr. Paul Jepson, will introduce the panelists and the questions for discussion. The panelists will give a brief summary of their roles in agricultural biodiversity. The panel will address two-three pre-chosen questions (from participants and organizers), then the floor will be open to additional questions from everyone.

3:15-3:30 Conservation Programs for Farmers  
NRCS Representative

3:30 – 4:00 Closing Discussion  
Everyone, Facilitated by Gwendolyn Ellen

**Lenwood Farms Description:**

Brad Bailie is a fifth-generation farmer of 600 acres in the shrub-steppe habitat of Connell, Washington. Connell is in the Columbia River Basin at the southern tip of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway situated south of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge and north of the fast growing Tri-cities area of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland Washington. Brad farms 8 crop circles in the middle of land his father put into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) when he was a teenager. Brad's family has been growing wheat on this land since 1915.

Brad has been growing certified organic crops including a variety of grains, potatoes, peas and onions interspersed with soil building and moisture holding cover crops for over 7 years. Brad serves on the Franklin County Conservation District Board and takes conservation of his farm very seriously. He has implemented innovative insectary habitats including beetle banks, planted trees,

erected perches and boxes for predator birds and has future plans to create a wildlife pond surrounded by native plantings on his farm. As Brad says, "I believe organic and conservation just go hand in hand. That's why a lot of the projects that I want to implement on my farm make sense more than financially. It's the health of the entire environment I'm farming in".

**Sponsors:**

**Franklin County Conservation District, Pasco, WA**

**Western Integrated Pest Management Center, University of California, Davis (USDA, CSREES)**  
**USDA, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.**

**The Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, OR**

**The Integrated Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR**

**USDA, NRCS Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, OR**

**Crop Production Services**

**Perfect Blend, L.L.C., Othello, WA**

**Agri-Check/AgSource, Umatilla, OR**

**Organically Grown Company, Eugene, OR**

**The National Center for Appropriate Technology, Butte, MT**